

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's October 16, 2002, Official Action and respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following comments.

Claims 1-10 remain in the application for consideration. Claim 11 has been withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Enclosed herewith is corrected Fig. 1 amended in red for the Examiner's approval.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification and drawings, Applicant has provided the new title suggested by the Examiner and amended Fig. 1 to identify vehicle body 9 now referenced in the specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that these objections have now been overcome.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

The Random House College Dictionary defines "caulk" as follows:

"caulk (kôk), v.t. 1. to fill or close (a seam, joint, etc.) to make watertight, airtight, etc., as in a boat. 2. to make (a vessel, tank, window, etc.) watertight or airtight by filling the seams with some material. 3. to drive the edges of (plating) together to prevent leakage."

As the Examiner will note, the common meaning of caulk (or caulking) does not in any way require the use of the compounds suggested by the Examiner. Indeed, the definition clearly suggests the exact use the claimed caulking flanges are intended to achieve, i.e. close a joint or seam, drive edges of (plating) together to prevent leakage. The Examiner has provided no basis for limiting the definition the above definition of caulking.

In light of the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has amended the specification in accordance with the above definition to better clarify the purpose of the caulking flanges. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has now been overcome.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Meritor Light Vehicle Systems Ltd. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection especially as applied to the claim as amended.

Clearly the longitudinal length of the legs of Meritor are not perpendicular to its base plate as claimed by Applicant and accordingly, cannot function in the same manner as the claimed legs.

Applicant also does not agree that Meritor teaches in anyway whatever a rear caulking flange with a larger diameter than that of the mounting hole or a front caulking flange with a larger diameter than that of the mounting hole

located against the front face of the base. Neither Fig. 1 or 2 of Meritor teach such flanges. Indeed, Applicant submits that Figs. 1 and 2 of Meritor shows only that the unnumbered portion of the Meritor legs which is engaged to base 10 has a uniform diameter that appears to be friction fit in a mounting hole in base 10. Accordingly, Meritor does not teach or show either the front or rear caulking flange claimed.

The Examiner's indication that Meritor has a rear caulking flange because the specification indicates that limbs 10, 20 "are riveted into spaced locations" is completely speculative and not supported by the drawings or the definition of rivet.

The Random House College Dictionary indicates in addition to the definition attributed to "rivet" by the Examiner that "rivet" also means "to fasten or fix firmly" which is completely consistent with what is shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of Meritor without regard to flanges.

Further, as to claim 2, Meritor does not teach that its legs have the same shape. Figs. 1 and 2 of Meritor clearly show that its legs are engaged to its base at different angles and that their diameters are different from each other along their length. Accordingly, there is no basis for the Examiner's position.


Applicant submits that the invention is new and unobvious and not disclosed by the cited art. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully solicits the Examiner's early review
and issuance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Fig. 1

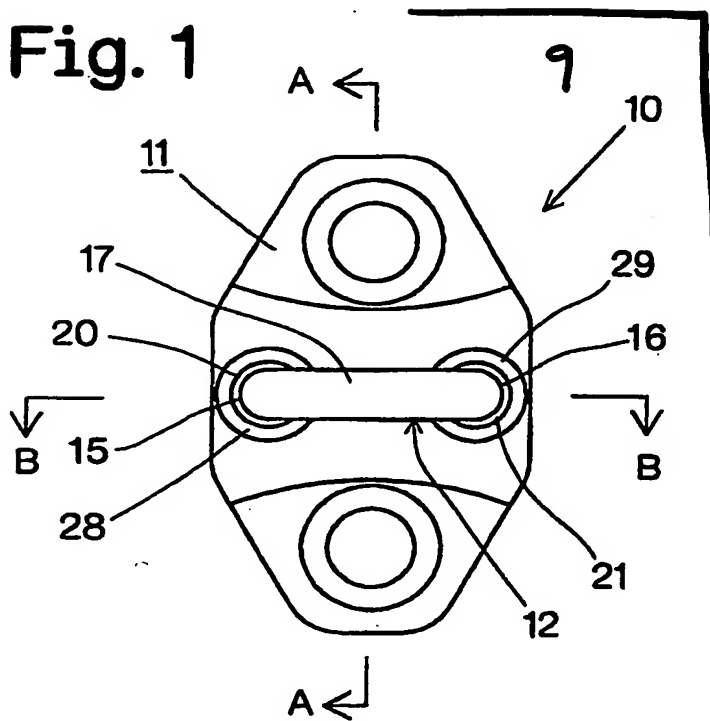


Fig. 2

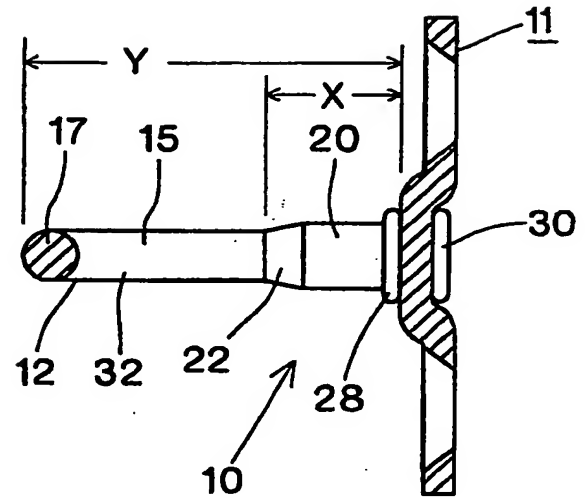


Fig. 3

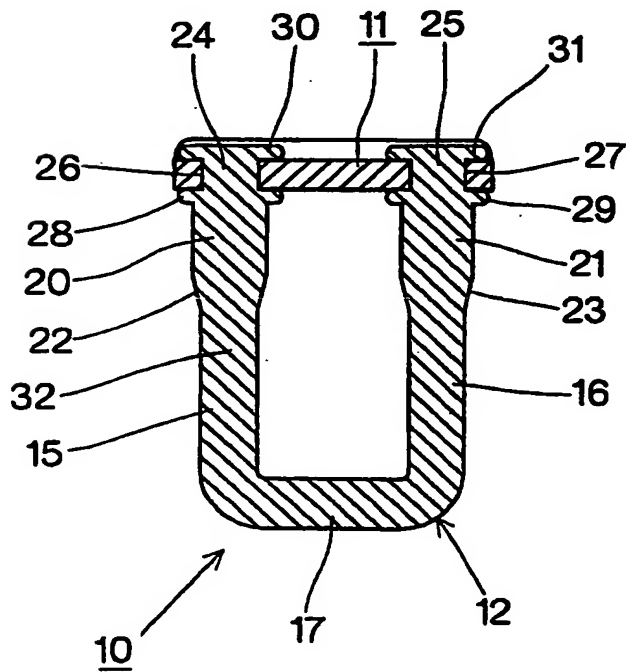


Fig. 4

